

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:4.

44. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:8 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:8.

45. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:10 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:10.

46. (Withdrawn) A recombinant polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:4 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:4.

47. (Withdrawn) A recombinant polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:8 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:8.

48. (Withdrawn) A recombinant polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:10 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:10.

49. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated polypeptide according to any one of Claims 43, 44 or 45 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

50. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:4.

51. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:8.

52. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:10.

53. (Withdrawn) A recombinant polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:4.

54. (Withdrawn) A recombinant polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:8.

55. (Withdrawn) A recombinant polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10 or having at least about 90% similarity to SEQ ID NO:10.

56. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody to the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

57. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody to the polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

58. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody to the polypeptide comprising an amino acid of SEQ ID NO:10.

59. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the complement sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise hybridization in 0.1-1x SSC/0.1% w/v SDS at 60°C for 1-3 hours and washing in 0.1 x SSC/0.1%SDS at 65°C, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a VEGF[[-]]B molecule polypeptide which exhibits at least one of the following properties: (i) an ability to induce vascular endothelial cells; (ii) an ability to interact with flt-1/flk-1 family of receptors; or (iii) an ability to induce cell migration, cell survival or an increase in intracellular levels of alkaline phosphatase.

60. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to the complement sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said high stringency conditions comprise hybridization in 0.1-1x SSC/0.1% w/v SDS at 60°C for 1-3 hours and washing in 0.1 x SSC/0.1%SDS at 65°C, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a human VEGF[[-]]B molecule polypeptide which exhibits at least one of the following properties: (i) an ability to induce vascular endothelial cells; (ii) an ability to interact with flt-1/flk-1 family of receptors; or (iii) an ability to induce cell migration, cell survival or an increase in intracellular levels of alkaline phosphatase.

61. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

62. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

63. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

64. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B comprises an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.

65. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

66. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

67. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

68. (Withdrawn) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 60 wherein said VEGF-B consists of an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10.